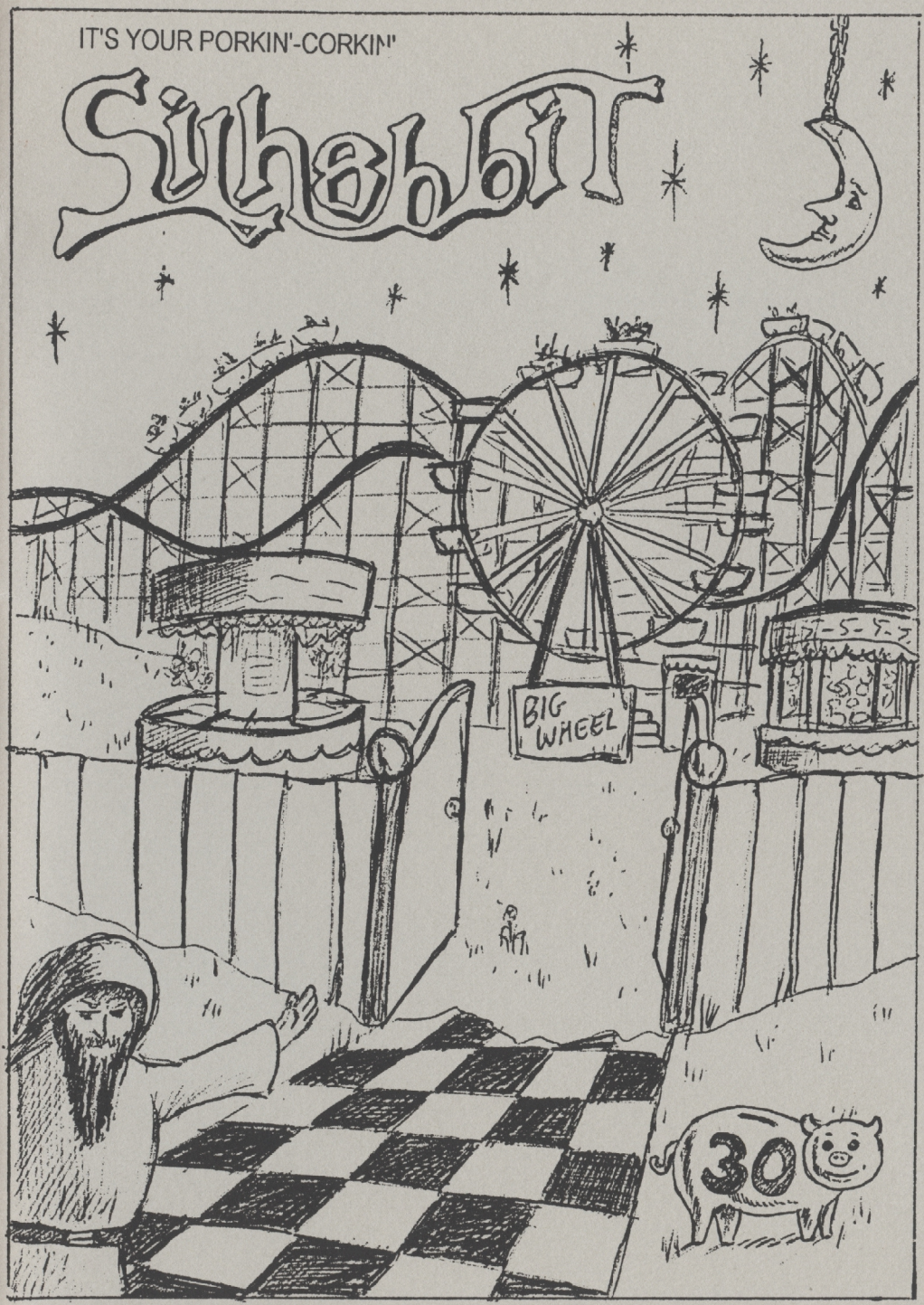
BEST FOR PROG - Better than S.I., Wonderous Stories, and ORCP.



Galahad fans go Wild!!! - Fish's Dog in Anal-Anger!!! - Alan Reed Interveiw !!!!

EDITORIAL

THE VOICE OF PROG

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, hows it hanging? Long and straight I hope. Well, we're back, yet again, for another slice'o'shyte, against all the odds.

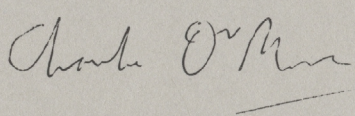
I hope you all enjoyed the last issue, and our tape. This issue we welcome three new writers, but more about them later in the mag. As you can see by our flyers, we've got a lot of old issues kicking around here, that we want to get shot of, so now's the time to complete your collection! We're also starting up our much awaited "Fantasy Prog Band" competition. The players are on the centrefold, and the entry form is on the flyer. Hurry hurry, never worry, and get the forms filled in and back to us pronto, or else you'll miss the first lot of scores.

We've had a great response to out "Kick Out The Blands" feature last issue. We've only had a handful of CD's to review this time! Keep up the good work, quality control and all that business crap.

On a serious note, we had a letter from Italy trying to clear up something that we said in the last issue. Apparently, there was no fight between Fish fans and Marillion fans (being Italian, they all ran away and made love or someting nice!). So no aggro there then. Thanks for clearing that one up Marina.

Well there's just time for me to say have a nice read, and don't forget to wipe afterwards. Norm!

By the hands of time
And the legs of steel
You'll know the difference
In the orange peel



Charlie O'Mara

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FERRY COMPANIES BAN SICK TRANSPORT OF DUMB ANIMALS

Pressure from passengers ends years of misery

The increase in passenger complaints has led to the major ferry companies refusal to continue transporting Galahad fans from England to Europe. It looks as if the fans may miss their band except for UK gigs only.

A spokesman for S.T.O.P the organisation who have campaigned for nearly three years told Silhobbit, "Our group recognised the misery of travellers who had had put up with van loads of Galahad yobs causing havoc on the waves. Many of these animals are high on drink and drugs, all of them are abusive and aggressive"

Stu Nicholson defended his fans and said that "... We will have to look into another way of transporting them. I've been discussing chartering a small aircraft from Manchester and speaking with a small ferry company in the North East of Britain. I'm sure that we can come to an arrangement."

Top Tory MP Sir Peter Reefe told Silhobbit that he was angry with the ferry companies who were preventing a legitimate trade.

Editor's comment "When these animals are let loose anywhere they cause no end of unnecessary suffering. When you put a film in a camera you don't just shut the back and forget about it, in which case the band have a responsibility just like the ferry companies and the van drivers."

"Where there are Galahad fans there's always trouble" - David Platt

ALBUM REVIEW

Songs From The Lions Cage
ARENA

Arena are a new Prog band with a rather delicious line up! Within the group they can boast the keyboard talents of the ex-Pendragon player Clive Nolan, the ex-Asia guitar wizard Keith Moor and (amazingly) the welcome return of ex-Marillion drummer and founder member Mick Pointer. The vocalist, John Carson, has one of the best voices in Progressive rock, not too dissimilar to a certain Scotsman. Cliff Orsi completes the line-up with some good solid bass parts. Fans of Marillion will also appreciate Steve Rothery's excellent guitar contribution.

I was immediately impressed with the cover and packaging which was created by John Gosler, an artist who has worked on many Pink Floyd covers. It depicts two lions attacking a gladiator with hundreds of spectators. If you look hard enough you might just see a few familiar faces in the crowd!

The CD contains five epics separated by four simple interludes. I don't want to go into each track as that would spoil the surprises. All of the songs are superb with excellent musical performances. Having listened to "Songs from the Lion's Cage" constantly for two weeks there are several moments that leave me breathless... The introduction to "Out Of The Wilderness", the drumming at the start and the keyboard solo during "Valley Of The Kings", the brilliant classical guitaring on "Cry For Help 1", the vocals on "Cry for Help 4", the tongue-in-cheek "He Knows..." references at the end of "Midas Vision" and the massive keyboard/guitar battle during the 14 minute epic "Solomon". Every moment of this album is great but some bits are more great! The production and sound is massive.

So Arena have some exceptional songs and some big Prog-rock names attached to the band. When rumours of the band spread like wildfire nearly two years ago, there were sceptics who thought that Mick Pointer and the musicians were perhaps "cashing in on Marillion's success". Now the sceptics have been proved very wrong. An American magazine mentioned that Arena would tour in November and that they would include a selection of early Marillion in their set, perhaps even Grendel? We'll have to wait and see. Until then this album comes highly recommended and is a definite must for anyone who likes great music, or indeed anyone who owns a CD player.

Arena's "Songs from the Lion's Cage" will be seen as a future Prog-rock classic, such is its strength.

William Goate

BBC-1 didžejs T. Vēns savā programmā *The Friday Rock Show* atskaņo trīs radio veiktos sesijas ierakstus. Taču pēc debijas albuma Mika Pointera un *Marillion* ceļi šķiras. Tikai deviņdesmitajos gados Miks Pointers ar savu vārdu ieraksta divus solo albumus *Sunset Voyage* un *Jack'N' The Progressive Beanstalk.*

CYCLOPS

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Cyclops Records are proud to announce the formation of a specialist label which is focused on releasing quality Rock and Progressive Rock artists for the European, American and Far East markets. Cyclops Records (a division of GFT Limited - one of England's largest Progressive Rock mail order companies) has arranged exclusive distribution for America/Canada through GRIFFIN MUSIC/GOPACO USA, PINNACLE in the UK, SPV in Germany/Austria/Switzerland, MSI in France, 99TH FLOOR in Italy, SI in Holland/Belgium/ Luxembourg, and many other territories throughout Europe and the Rest of the World.

Initial releases are as follows:

GRACE - Pulling Strings And Shiny Things
(Captures the bands live vitality with its strong songwriting)
GREY LADY DOWN - The Crime
(A future classic with early Genesis/Marillion feel plus two epics)
PRIMITIVE INSTINCT - Floating Tangability
(Powerful, emotive and with feeling. One gem after another.)
GEOFF MANN - In One Era..
(Both 'Psalm Enchanted Evening' and 'I May Sing Grace' LPs on one CD)
ABBFINOOSTY - Future
(Heavier Progressive with biting guitar work and subtle melody)
RICK & ADAM WAKEMAN - Live Official (2CD)
(Superb instrumental double live CD from last tour with a classic 38 min Journey To The Centre Of The Earth)
CYCLOPS SAMPLER (Budget price)
(One track from each artist with unreleased/different tracks)
HAZE - World Turtle
(New tracks, rerecorded classics and new unreleased recordings)
WALKING ON ICE - No Margin For Error
(Powerful & emotional blend of expert musicianship & songwriting)
EPILOGUE - Hide
(Song orientated and progressive epics with strong songwriting and great production)
STEVE HILLMAN - Matrix
(Instrumental rock orientated withTangerine Dream style Teutonic synths, great guitar and keyboard work)
CREDO - Field Of Vision
(Inventive Progressive Rock with superb vocalist and searing guitar breaks)
MR So & So - Compendium
(With 5 tracks over 10 minutes long in a classic Yes middle period style. Stupendous guitar/keyboard work)
HAWKWIND - California Brainstorm Box Set
(California Brainstorm CD with extra track + 176 page Illustrated Collectors book)
FRUITCAKE - How To Make It
(Norwegian groups second CD is a cross between IQ/Pendragon/Jadis and Anglagard/Anekdoten. A future classic)
EZRA - Shapes
(Very much in the It Bites/Saga style with great guitar work, and keyboards by CYAN (Robert Reed))

FREEMASONS could become one of the next targets of the Nolan committee into standards in public life, it emerged yesterday.

1995 confirmed releases include:

VULGAR UNICORN	**- Under The Umbrella**
ROBERT BERRY	**- Pligrimage To A Point (+ extras)**
GREY LADY DOWN	**- Forces**
TRISTAN PARK	**- A Place Inside**
2ND CYCLOPS SAMPLER	**- (with all unreleased tracks)**
GRACE	**- New untitled**

If you wish to be kept up to date with the new releases or would like more information on the Cyclops CDs, please send a S.A.E. or I.R.C. for Catalogue and up to date information.

GFT Ltd. also has a mail-order catalogue with over 2500 progressive titles on CD. For a free copy please send a S.A.E. or I.R.C. from abroad. Credit card facilities are accepted.

EAR TO THE ETHER

It is great that progressive-rock has had recent radio play. If you didn't catch Porcupine Tree play a live set then you missed out, big time. Steven Wilson was even interviewed and talked about his 'mission' to bring progressive-rock kicking and creaming into the next century. Good luck to him and his excellent band.

Who would have thought that Mick Pointer would rear his head after fifteen years of musical absence? Who would have even contemplated that his band's album would have been such a stormer? 'Songs from the Lion Cage' has now sold 20,000 copies which ain't bad when you consider that Mick devotes almost all of his time to Budism. The Arena album cover has caused quite a stir with his old Marillion chums. It seems that Mark Kelly, Pete Trewavas and Fish didn't appreciate being included in the artwork. Mick reckons that any similarities are purely coincidental.

All is not well with Scottish band Abel Ganz, it seems they have lost their bass player and their name. Hugh Carter has claimed the Abel Ganz tag and plans to team up with old cohort Hew Montgomery. This has not pleased the other boys. Do not be surprised if a certain Pallas singer adds some vocals to the new line up.

The Riverside Venue in Newcastle upon Tyne is not a favourite with the prog hounds in the North. First they cancelled the IQ gig there in 1989, not giving the travelling punters sufficient time to avoid the journey. Now in January, Cumbria's number one personality Frank Dunnery played there. Memories were old so the prog-hounds stayed at home, a wise move after the reports we received. The in house PA had prog all power and poor Frank ended up being drowned out by the band playing downstairs, which was no joke, no Killing Joke actually as were the offenders. A non-plussed Frank tored the wall paper off the walls and vowed never to play there again. I hope that others will take heed.

Silhobbit has been in trouble by delving into the personal details of the Marillion boys. We do have plenty of gossip about the boys but are unable to print it. We can reveal to our readers that the anonymous naked Fish photo was posted to Viz from the same area as Marillion's studio.

It was great to see my old It Bites mates do some Japanese gigs with the John Wetton band. Bob and John did a fine job.

Til next time, here's looking at ya kiddos

THE THIRD MAN

FISHES DOG CRAPPED ON MY SON'S GRAVE

Encouraged! - "Fish should be licked up and they should throw away the key" - Claims Mum

Silhobbit print the horrifying tragic truth that's causing village outrage.

Fish is at the centre of a raging storm set to whip up a frenzy of emotions after local resident Mrs Jiffard claims that the ex-Marillion star's dog did a 'bulb' on her son's dead grave. Although she has no proof that Fish's dog, Bertie, was responsible she is certain beyond any probable doubt that "Dirty Bertie" was likely to've 'laid a brownie' where her son has rested peacefully since he accidently died when the steam-roller he was working under moved forward because of faulty brake cables.

"I was devastated when Andrew died and because of the way he was squashed his grave is about three times the size of a normal plot" boasted Mrs Jiffard. "It made me sick. I just looked down and saw the 'bulb' which was laid where Andrew's mouth would have been. Immediately I called the police, who told me that Fish had already been recently convicted of frundery ,the 'letting of a Domestic Animal to Foul on an area of land used as a place of Human Burial' which contravenes the 1767 Desecration of Graves Act. When I heard that Fish had encouraged Bertie to crap on other graves, I knew it was him" she added

The doggy-doing was collected by Mrs Jiffard and wrapped in a piece of paper which was stored safely in her handbag until she was able to pay for the mess to be analysed at the Edinburgh Laboratory of Defecation and Piss who charged £30 for the bulbs to be tested and a DNA record to be stored. Mrs Jiffard wants the police to collect a sample of Fish's dog's dirt to match it with the bulbs that were left on her dead son's grave but the police were unimpressed with her accusations.

PC. Lockyear told Silhobbit 'Whilst we try to take most crimes seriously we are not willing to question Fish because we feel it unlikely that he would walk his dog 120 miles from his house. Although Fish does have a previous conviction for frundery we must take it into consideration that Mrs Jiffard likes to get a bit 'carried away', she wasted thousands of pounds worth of pubic tax payer's money when she was convinced that The Enid's Robert John Godfrey had exhumed her son's grave and spread raspberry jam on his 'tool'. After arresting Robert John Godfrey and digging up the body, our forensic experts were able to prove that there had been no foul play".

Silhobbit tried to contact Fish last night but he was out with Gladiator stars' Panther, Lightning, Shadow, Hurricane, and presenter John Fashanu.

LIVE! Porcupine Tree

Canterbury Theatre
May 10th 1995

We have all bought the CD's, heard the radio sessions and stuff. Porcupine Tree are now one of the few prog bands to have struggled out of the IQ, Pallas and Pendragon league and climbed to early Marillion and It Bites status. Although their singles have never really cut the charts they are the only prog band to consistently get rave reviews in such magazines as NME, Melody Maker and even Koran!

But the moment of truth had arrived. Could those space cadets pull of a big UK tour and sound as brilliant as their recordings live ?

It wasn't long before any doubts were doubted and a after only few minutes into 'Up the Downstair' the answer was yes, Yes and YES!! Tonight Porcupine Tree were nothing short of superb, dry ice by the bucket load, projections, the only thing missing were the floating inflatable animals. In the future people will be talking about seeing the band's first big national tour as one of the greatest moments of music. They did play the old classics, although 'Radioactive Toy', 'Burning Sky' and 'Always Never' provided the bulk of the set. No 'Voyage 34' instead we got the new EP 'Moonloop'. The set closed with 'Not Beautiful Anymore'. This is what the prog crowds have been waiting for years for.

Set the controls for the heart of the sun because that's where Porcupine Tree are taking us all.

William Goate

TEN THINGS YOU NEVER NEW THAT YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

PENDRAGON

1. Nick Barrett used to milk cows.
2. Peter Gee used to make walking sticks.
3. Clive Nolan and Nick Barrett used to go to school together.
4. Fudge Smith was sacked from La Host for not having a van.
5. Nick Barrett is a chain smoker and is terrified of heights.
6. The Pendragon fanclub has a U.K membership of 958.
7. Nick Barrett and Clive Nolan used to play Batman and Robin.
8. Peter Gee was banned for drink driving after an all night drinking spree
9. The album The World has sold 22,500 copies.
10. Fudge Smith slept with a prostitutes during the last Pendragon tour.

ALBUM REVIEW

DARIUS

a poet's soliloquy

Darius are a five piece Prog band from Dusseldorf in Germany. Their CD is called "A Poets Soliloquy" and you currently have to write to the band to get it. Well, that's the boring shit out of the way, lets talk music! The CD starts off with their ten minute epic "Where is Mr God" which twists and turns between good and bad in its search for perfection. The vocals are in English (you know the sort), and the lyrics tell of a young boys fear of war. "Hey, Little Child"'s the next track, and is a prayer to the future.

The third track, "Undercover Lover" is the duff one on the CD. A prog song with dumb metal lyrics, lyrics like "Feels like I want to have her, I want to be her undercover lover". I think EVERY prog album aught to have one of these, just to break up the seriousness of them. "The Mask" is, thankfully, not a cover of the dire Pendragon song, but a song in the mould of an uptempo Twelfth Night. I can't remember anything about "Through The Night" so it's probably one of those that pass ya by, either that, or the greatest song written. "Vagabonds" is better, well, I can remember it anyway. It's a warning to us all not to pass them by on the street. This leads into the title song, "A Poets Soliloquy". Six minutes and forty seconds of heaven. A prog classic or my names not John. And is it about Fish, I wonder? It joins with the next two tracks to form a twenty minute dazzler, about prog things such as hills and children and market squares and old men and mountains and poets!

This is followed by the 'Pendragon doing a Deacon Blue'ness of "Hey You!". It's ok, in a jaunty, fun type way. You can tell it's a fun track 'cos they talk in German after it, in the studio like. They're probably saying something really witty, like "That one really fucking happening now". Maybe. The album closes with the technoprog of "The Last Way", which contains a "Forgotten Sons" type spoken/sung bit. In fact, it ends like "Forgotten Sons". This is followed by the short and sweet "Game of Life".

Available from Sven Martin, Am Braken 71, 42489 Wulfrath, Germany

Charlie O'Mara

NICK "BIRDMAN" BARRETT AND HIS GRAVY TALES OF WICKED FINANCE

Nick Barrett was topping up his cigarette rack in his kitchen when suddenly there was a knock at the door. "Would you like your car cleaned sir?" piped two small boys. Using his fox-like cunningness and a pot of gravy, Nick was able to confuse the young car cleaners. "Well done boys, here's two quid for the job, however you owe me five quid for the use of my water" explained Nick who was instantly rewarded.

Pleased as a pie, Nick congratulated himself on his fruitful windfall.

SILHOBBIT BLOODY SHAKE UP SHOCKER

Sweeping changes made in tough new "Clean-Up" policy.

In a bid to clean up Silhobbit after readers' complaints, the New Year was a bloody one for editor Charlie O'Mara and after a two hour board meeting of Silhobbit staff and several free-lance journalists who contribute, Rimsk Scaffolletti and Jake Lane were both booted out and harsh new rules were set by editor Charlie O'Mara as he tried to calm down the situation. Other journalists present, such as Matt Ellis, Paul Menel, William Goate, Cess van der Valke, Vinnie De Loux, Paul Cook, and Julia Nickel were stunned at Charlie's tough action.

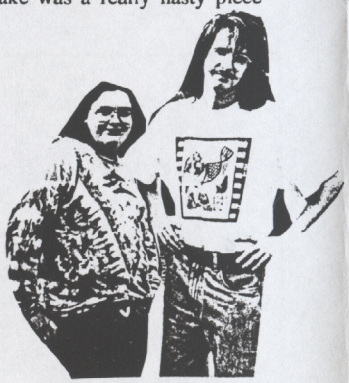
Ofrord - Denies having sex

Recent issues had contained many controversial articles that dug dirt into the private lives of the prog stars. Marillion's Mark Kelly and Steve Rothery made an official complaint to The Press Council on Silhobbit's reporting of several personal and delicate matters which had offended the band and their families. Even Marvin Orford scathed a bitter attack on Silhobbit in The Organ magazine, infuriated by the controversy surrounding the "MARVIN ORFORD HAD SEX WITH MY DAUGHTER" article.

Charlie O'Mara told Silhobbit "In the end Rimsk and Jake had to go, it was as simple as that. The magazine was turning into some seedy tabloid rag that was becoming highly offensive to both the musicians and the readers. I was getting headaches apologising for their irresponsible journalism." he said. "They were also aggravating other staff, Jake was a really nasty piece of work." he added.

Euro-Progger Gandalf welcomed the changes and hoped that the magazine would now be able to cater for the family market.

Charlie O'Mara continued "Rimsk had a gift for investigative journalism but took it too far. He acted like the Whore's Rabbit chasing the Hare's Hair, not giving a toss about who he hurt. I didn't want a bust up because that is not what Prog is all about, but a recent article about Steve Hogath buggering some heroin addict in Brazil was the final straw and he had to be fired before the magazine breached the new strict publishing guidelines. Jake Lane was shown the door after he assaulted William Goate and tried to sneak at his sister in the toilets at the Silhobbit Christmas piss-up, I won't tolerate that sort of behavior."



Dismissed - Rimsk and Jake

Silhobbit have now recruited three new journalists and welcome them to the magazine.

Eric Ribble is a lifelong fan of prog and enjoys Pallas, early Jadis, Twelfth Night, Pendragon and yoghurt. He'll be writhing about new bands and taking over Jakes "Demo Page". So watch out for "RIBBLES DRIVEL" soon.

Rebecca Goate is William's sister and tells us she is a huge Galahad, Porcupine Tree, The Enid, Gentle Giant, Mike Oldfield and rice cake fan. The thinking mans answer to Tracey Hitchens, she'll be giving us her views on collar bones and "cute butts", whilst making the rest of us sandwiches and pouring our beer.

Eddie Snuffer is an Australian reader who is over in England on a Prog-rock exchange with Robert Ball for two years and he likes Fish, Arena, Marillion, Grace, Sphere and fresh fruit. He'll be telling us how much better everything is "down under, Bruce" and how he wishes he was "home to watch the Ashes".

What the Stars Think....

Clive Nolan - "I think that Silhobbit has a right to print the truth about the Prog stars. Rimsk was just a journalist trying to raise the moral standards and values that seem to be lost in the world of Prog."

Mark Kelly - "Rimsk and Jake went too far. Imagine how I felt when I heard that they wanted my daughter's school report to print in Silhobbit. They just couldn't leave me and my family alone. I hope that they don't never rear their ugly faces again."

Fish - "As a thinking man I was always interested in what was going on in Prog. As a father and Scotsman I despised their sexist and bigamistic covialitistical approach. Love-Cheats, Thiefs and Gays, like Ian Moseley, Pete Nichols, and Brian Devoil should be exposed to the record buying pubic and shamed like a Jew wearing the Muslim's Turban."

Cyrus *(Citizen Cain)* - "To be honest I'm not surprised or shocked. Perhaps the new Silhobbit team can give the lads a taste of their own medicine and print some dirt on their private lives."

Silhobbit - Always Abating the cause of Prog without Progressing too Much

ALBUM REVIEW

Epilogue "Hide"

Oh la la, quatre jeune garcons from le Prog city, la Stoke On Tent (chez Grace!). La Chris Frost sent moi le audio cassette of "Hide" le released en Octobre. Il sent moi a cheque por un mille quid as well. You English ave a saying "Bloody nice bloke". And hes.

Le cassette kicks off avec "Swords And Knives", une grande la nocher and to la finale track "The Flame" they are a qualite grope!

Le favoutie chanson a moi cest "Dans Le City" with, oh la la, keyboards aimer Marvin lAwfull de IQ, et Mike Stobbie de Pallas. Cycloops are on a le champs with this CD and all mon amis dans Les Payes Bas, la Belgique et lAllemange they jaime avec moi!

"Into The Clock" is une belle chanson, oh la la, etes-vous Marie Cilibataire? Avez-vous des enfants terrible? Mon Francais est il si mauvais? Voulez vous sortir avec moi ce soir? Puis je vous naccompagnet? Not arf mate!

If you English do not desire these quatre garcons, well you can all get farcie, je belle it.

Vinnys Prog Rating - Dix sur Dix.

Mercy beacoup, Jai passe une merveilleuse soiree, nor arf

Vincent De Loux

NICK "BIRDMAN" BARRETT AND HIS GRAVY TALES OF WICKED FINANCE

Nick Barrett was topping up his cigarette rack in his kitchen when suddenly there was a knock at the door. "Excuse me sir, would you like to make a donation to help teach old people stuff ?" begged an aged charity worker. Using his fox-like cunningness and a pot of gravy, Nick and was able to confuse the dear old lady. "Here's a tenner, so that's £20 change please" offered Nick who was instantly rewarded.

Pleased as a pie, Nick congratulated himself on his fruitful windfall.

THE ALAN REED INTERVIEW.

Silhobbit reporter Eric Ribble chats openly to Pallas' frontman Alan Reed at his favourite Chinese restaurant The Prog Wok

SH Well Alan, they say that if you can "Wait for the boat then the journey will be plane sailing". It's been yonks since the last Pallas album, can you justify such a delay?

AR Yes I think we can. Albums arn't like children or animals, something that you can just sell at car boot sales. When Pallas make a recording we're not interested in wank music, and I think that when our album comes out it's going to piss over a lot of the so called 'prog bands' of the nineties. Pointer took over ten years to get a new band together, so I think that anyone who gets impatient is just a butt-monger.

SH Pallas've been lucky to have their EMI recordings put out on CD. Did this take a lot of negotiating?

AR I don't really know, or really care to be honest. EMI acted like dildos in the 80's. I think Niall just rang them up and told them that we were putting the stuff out and if they caused any trouble then someone would get hurt. Pallas don't take no shit and sometimes you have to use threats to get stuff done. It's dog-eat-bone out there and if a bloke helps us out then we'll help them out twice us much, however if a bloke hurts us then we'll hurt them back twice as hard. I'm not a trouble maker but life can be cruel and when you've been brought up on a Scottish council estate in Scotland with fuck-all but an empty stomach, that's why you grow wise.

At this point a waiter brings over Alan's rice and meat dish.

AR I've always like Chinese food. This place does good nosh with no grief from no-one. I like restaurants that are like my women 'hot, give good portions and always dish up a moist treat'. This place is a great place to pick up slags.

SH Going back to Pallas, do you ever keep in touch with any ex-members?

AR Not, really as they were all a bunch of wankers. Ronnie Brown was delivering lard to schools and Euan Lowson had a job cleaning telescopes at sea-side towns. Euan was a crap singer and because I am so much better that's why I got the job. Everyone I speak to tells me that Euan was crap and that I'm so much better. There's so many crap vocalists in prog, like Gary Ghandler, Pete Nicholls, Fish, Carson, Hogarth, Stu Nicholson, Barrett and their ilk, they're all crap. That fat bloke from Floyd, he's really crap.

SH One roomer was, that EMI dumped you because of your attitude and that their hasn't been a Pallas album for years because everyone finds it difficult to work with you?

AR That's bollocks. Anyone that thinks that is a Wanker.

At this point, Reed stormed out of the resteraunt, calling me a "Northern tossa"and leaving me to pay the bill and wipe the shit off his seat.

Alan Reed. What a Scotsman!

Marillion - Afraid of Sunlight

Just over 15 months since the release of Brave sees Marillion back into the record shops with their latest and probably most difficult release since 'Seasons End'. The thoughts in the people's minds are "can Afraid of Sunlight match never mind better such an album as it's predecessor, or is it just a quickly to get in some prog-dosh to cross-collaterise the enormous costs accumulated in the making of Brave ands it's movie." Thanks to Steve H. I was able to have the opportunity of hearing the album before most other people.

Cazpacho (7.27) opens with a lush keyboard sound followed by a 'Holidays in Eden' vibe containing some effective bass work from Pete Trevawas. Steve Hogart is in fine voice, swooping. Certainly one of the highlights of the album. **4/6**

Cannibal Surf Babe (5.12) The Beach Boys, and Marillion are not compatible, and this song, with its West Coast sound only confirms it. No doubt they would justify its existence as stretching their musical boundaries. Perhaps this one would've been better off lost on a b-side single. **2/6**

Beautiful (5.12) Which by chance is going to be the first single from the album. The French intro. is a bit pretentious, leads into a simple and inoffensive song that if was played on Radio 2 could be the band's pension policy. **3/6**

Afraid of Sunrise (5.01) So far the album has bean pleasant, but it is crying out for a pivotal moment such as 'Runaway' provided on 'Brave'. Alas 'Afraid of Sunrise'does nothing, sure the keyboards are lush, but where is Steve Rothery, so far his contribution has been minimal. **2/6**

Out of This World (7.54) Dreamy guitar intro, Steve's voice is very good. Steve Rothery is at last dragged out of the pub to unleash a classic solo which grabs hold of the song and at last we get Marillion rocking our prog-rock bones. Fine vocals provide a poignant ending. **5/6**

Afraid of Sunlight (6.49) Things are on a roll now, after another slow start this soon gets into the stride, bouncing along like a certain ex-vocalist's belly. Powerful performance from Hogart who is turning 'Afraid in his and Mark's album. **3/5**

Beyond You (6.10) An uptempo love song reminiscent of Berlin in feel. Quite a nice song but not a Marillion classic. **3/6**

King (7.03) Nice peace of psychedelic guitar starts off the last track, that includes a fired up and angry Steve Rothery and Ian Measly letting rip in true Marillion fashion. Some great changes and some tasteful keyboard work. "Is this what we Want!" bellows Hogart, Yeah Steve we can handel some more of this! **6/6**

In conclusion I think this will be seen as a transitional album, not troubling Brave as their best work in recent times, an idea from one song could easily fit in another. I can understand the band wanting to use Dave Meegan again, but feel that the project would've benefited from a different progducer (like Mike Stobbie or Wilson Picket). Generally a mellow album and perhaps a bit too relaxed. Perhaps they lost all their hate on Brave? The next album.... I have it on good authority that EMI have given the go ahead for a follow up on Brave, with a shorter film than Brave1. ***William Goate's album rating - 5/7***

LISTENING POST

band - Jester's Jester.
demo- 'Kick down the Weak'

Jester's Jester are a five-piece skinhead Nazi prog band from Germany and are made up of far-right extremists with a love of progressive rock music. As musicians they are very good and not dissimilar to 'For Absent Friends' or early 'Gandalf' but without the chaff. Produced by Jadis drummer Steve Christy, they have the mark of becoming popular by association rather than from the discerning prog-pundit. Containing only two songs, recorded on each side twice, the whole thing lasts well over an hour.
The first track 'Wuschel' lasts a respectable 7mins and flirts with Trewavaresque style of bass (Chelsea Monday/Symathy). The second 19min epic , 'Fruchtgummi mit Schaumzuckers' is far more up-beat and contains some wonderful keybored/guitar leads although it does rip off early Gahahad classics like 'The Chase' although never quite reaching the same quality as our superior English bands.

Germany appreciates music but not musicians, Jester's Jester need to drop their political views faster than the speed that an apple fell onto Isaac Newton's head. If I wanted to 'take no leaf in front of one's mouth' then I would recommend this demo purely as a big Steve Christy fan but maybe the band have too much attitude and not enough prog attitude for my liking. Lets hope they grow their hair before they grow their hair.

Available through new label D.S.I the German subsidiary of S.I.for 18DM

band - Circus Maximus
demo - 'Chariots of Fire'

Not to be confused with the Vangellis soundtrack, Dutch band Circus Maximus could be what all the Euro progheads have been waiting for, because at last they can have their own who can get out of the fourth division and challenge for the the Premiership.

Initial reference points are IQ, Cake Airbasket, and Killing Joke, nothing radically different there you may say, but there is more a splash of King Crimson, some of the more uplifting moments of Yes, the melody of Faith no Moor, the charisma of Epilogue and the penis size of Fish, are all fused together with the guitar leads of Steve Hillage played through Richie Blackmore's Marshal stack (going through Steve Rotheries super Digi Chorus Delay pedal).

Over 40mins of music that will please your ears and titillate your tape deck for 25DG.

Available through Dutch S.I.-Holland, The Netherlands.

Sillhobbit wish Galahad a big Success with their great new Cd

FANTASY

It's the game that every

That's right readers, Silhobbit have devised a totally new and original idea (based on The Daily Telegraph's Fantasy Football), giving you the chance to pick your fave musicians and manage a band. You start off with £350,000, so the first thing you need to do is put together a band. Register your band with Silhobbit and each time we see any band we'll give points for performance and points for crowd size. Pick your band carefully, remembering that the bigger the names the bigger the points and the better the musician the better the points. If you have spare prog-dosh then you can buy extras. Don't delay, choose your band today !

Guitarists

Steve Rothery (Marillion)	- £110,000
Steve Hackett (Genesis)	- £125,000
Mike Rutherford (Genesis)	- £18,800
Gareth Evans (Epilogue)	- £45,000
Karl Groom (Shadowlands)	- £88,000
Gary Ghandler (Jadis)	- £55,000
James Headcase (CAb)	- £110,000
Justin Sabian (Walkin on Ice)	- £50,000
Nick Barrett (Pendragon)	- £95,000
Frank Dunnery (It Bites)	- £110,000
Glen Sanderman (Moria Falls)	- £50,000
Julian Hunt (Grey Lady Down)	- £50,000
Nick May (The Enid)	- £80,000
Mike Holmes (IQ)	- £90,000
Steve Howe (Yes)	- £125,000
Niall Mathewson (Pallas)	- £95,000
Peter Kelly (Fridge)	- £50,000
Asif Ali (Abbfinoosty)	- £45,000

Drummers

Mick Pointer (Arena/ex-Marillion)	- £95,000
Bill Bruford (Yes)	- £105,000
Neil Peart (Rush)	- £100,000
Phil Collins (genesis!)	- £12,400
Paul Cook (IQ)	- £80,000
Brian Devoil (Twelfth Night)	- £75,000
Andy Ward (Aston Villa)	- £10,000
Fudge Smith (Pendragon)	- £70,000
Richard Jordan (Moria Falls)	- £25,000
Dave Wagstaff (Landmarq)	- £70,000
Tony Grinham (ex Threshold)	- £75,000
Ian Moses (Marillion)	- £100,000
Steve Pasty (Jadis)	- £75,000
Animal (The Muppets)	- £100,000
Spencer Luckman (Halagad)	- £75,000
Paul Aldwin (ex-Jadis)	- £65,000
Mark Law (ex-Jadis)	- £70,000
Bob Dalton (ex-It Bites)	- £90,000
Mark Rideout (ex Jadis)	£55,000
Jonathon Mover (ex ex)	£10,000

PROG BAND

one will be playing !

Keyboardists

Richard West (Threshold)	- £180,000
Rick Wakeman (Yes)	- £135,000
Neil Durrant (Sphere)	- £60,000
Mike Stobbie (Pallas)	- £95,000
Marvin Orford (IQ)	- £95,000
Dave White (Moria Falls)	- £50,000
Tony Banks (Genesis)	- £112,000
Peter Salmon (ex Jadis)	- £95,000
Ronnie Brown (ex Pallas)	- £80,000
Clive Nolan (Everything!)	- £102,000
Louis David (GLD)	- £68,400
Andy Quinnell (P.I.)	- £65,000
Mark Kelly (Marillion)	- £104,000
Keith Emerson (ELP)	- £102,000
Mike Varty (Shadowlands)	- £90,000

Bassists

Trevor Dawkins (ex-Jadis)	- £32,000
Peter Trewavas (Marillion)	- £70,000
Andy Faulkner (Welkin on Ice)	- £28,400
John Jowlett (IQ / Jadis)	- £40,000
Geddy Lee (Rush)	- £100,000
Lolly Van Dyer (Cake Airbasket)	- £120,000
Cliff Arsi (Arena)	- £38,000
Neil Pepper (Galahad)	- £35,000
Peter Gee (Pendragon)	- £44,700
Tim Esau (ex IQ)	- £40,000
John Wetton (Asia)	- £50,000

Extras

Van	
Lighting set-up	- £10,000
Lighting and effects	- £2,500
Face make-up	- £12,000
Good Prince Harry	- £20,000
Floydian lasers	- £25,000
Smoke Machine	- £75,000
Naked Dancers	- £5,000
Spoons player	- £10,000
Drunk heckler	- £4.50
Big knob in spandex	- £300
	- £25,000

Frontmen

Alan Reed (Pallas)	- £135,000
Tracey Hitchens (S.O.A.T)	- £95,000
Stu Nicholson (Galahad)	- £100,000
Nick Sheridan (P.I)	- £50,000
Robert John Godfrey (Enid)	- £110,000
Fish (Fish)	- £180,000
Gary Ghandler (Jadis)	- £80,000
Steve Hograt (Marillion)	- £180,000
John Carson (Arena)	- £150,000
Graham Lane (Toilet Weasel)	- £28,000
Nick Barrett (Pendragon)	- £100,000
Paul Menel (ex-IQ)	- £110,000
Shaun Lowe (Epilogue)	- £40,000
Good Prince Harry (Grace)	- £105,000
Dave Gilmore (Pink Floyd)	- £210,000
Peter Nichols (IQ and Jadis)	- £120,000

ALBUM REVIEW AFTERGLOW YGGDRASIL

Don't you just like the blurb that comes on prog albums. This ones a classic. Overprinted on the picture of a fit naked women is...

"The legend of 'Yggdrasil' has its origins in the Scandinavian mythology. The yggdrasil is a large evergreen ash tree, Its function is to support the universe. It's a spindle and at its root three springs rise. the first visualises all the streams of the world, the second is the one where Odin takes his science and the third is the symbol of fate."

Yeah, right on! And the pixies all wore yellow hats to show that it was a Thursday and they weren't going to be subjected to slavery today! Anyway, Afterglow are a bunch of lads from somewhere in France, and as my first sample of Frog-Prog, I was mightily impressed. The CD starts with the skunkin' "Headliner", a four minute warning of throbbing bass-lines. "In the name of ..." follows up with more funky lines, mellow synths, and the rest. For a Frenchman, "Fancy" Freud Chaudeaux sings real well. Musically, they tend towards the Marillion side of things, with Freud desperately trying to sound like Hogarth.

The nine minute "Vision" starts of with some menacing acoustic guitaring (strange how acoustic guitar sounds menacing since Metallica done it), before drifting into a Grace like sound, mellow, yet progressive. It ends with an early-Script style instrumental workout. "Unquiet" is the second epic on the CD, clocking in at over thirteen minutes. Musically between Marillion and Floyd for the first part, then some more funky bass takes over, like some demented "Shaft" clone from the '70's, before returning to more Wallian influences. It's a great tune, with a well progressive lyricset to go with them. Strangely enough, the songs about "Sleepers". If the Galahad album is a good as this, then it will be very good indeed, Mr Kipling.

"David the King" sounds like one of those soft Extreme songs which the girlies like. But it's peaceful and relaxing in a Geoff Mannish sort of way. "White and Blue" is another nine minuter with a slow start building up for the middle section and then end. This is Chaudeaux at his most Hogarth, and the whole song is Marillion.

Bringing up the rear is the seventeen minute "Dolls", split up into 6 sections. "Nightfall..." is a slow piano piece while "...Toys in the attic" is, surprisingly a cover of the old Aerosmith classic! Not. "Reverse Rules" and "Another Dream" skip between Pendragon , Twelfth Night, the Floyd.

Overall, I think that this is an excellent CD, and at nearly eighty minutes is great value for money, however much it costs!

I don't know of anyone stocking it in England, but write to Musea, 68 La Tinchotte, 57117 Retonfey, France. Or better still, hassle Malcolm Parker at GFT to get it for you!

Dorian C Wrag

POLITE NOTICE

Galahad Bootlegs

We, here at Silhobbit, have always welcomed the many gfts people send. Tapes, t-shirts, CDs, flowers, cash, etc. But we would like to make a request. Will people please, please, please, stop sending us Galahad bootlegs. I would like to point out that we now have over 175 dodgy live Galahad gigs (including three from 28/12/87, and no less than seven different versions of the infamous 'Spencer's Trousers' gig from mid '89.

Although our friends from Dorset are one of the best prog bands, we do feel that the joke is wearing as thin as the hair on a certain man who plays drums and sings, originally with a band he joined in 1970 when they were good, and who were then ruined with bland commerciallity and the filthy lucre of high profile AOR careers. Yup, as thin as the hair on the head of a short, fat, ugly, man's head.

Whilst we appreciate that not all these tapes are sent maliciously, we would ask anyone sending tapes in the future to mark them clearly and correctly, and if possible not to send any more Galahad bootlegs.

We thank you for your co-operation

Heinz Svine

NICK "BIRDMAN" BARRETT AND HIS GRAVY TALES OF WICKED FINANCE

Nick Barrett was topping up his cigarette rack in his kitchen when suddenly there was a knock at the door. "Excuse me can I have a glass of water" gasped a poor weary traveller. Using his fox-like cunningness and a pot of gravy, Nick and was able to confuse the thirsty old man. "Unfortunately our water has been cut off, but I can open an expensive bottle of rare £2.10 Dutch Valley spring water if you can pay me" lied Nick who was instantly rewarded.

Pleased as a pie, Nick congratulated himself on his fruitful windfall.

ONCE AROUND THE WORLD

Yo Prog Pickers, it's your super stud Cess Van Der Valke coming at you in the chest with all the force of Eric Cantona's boots. Well the skies of the world have certainly been seeing a lot of me recently....

Before christmas I went to Japan at the request of my good friend John Wetton, where he was doing some gigs to promote his new cd. The show compromised of songs from all his old bands Asia, Uriah Heep, U.K., etc. The added bonus was in his backing band he had recruited Mr. John Beck and Mr. Robert Dalton. The Japanese are not themselves very friendly.. John Beck made the newspaper headlines by acting dangerously. This consisted of walking into the kitchen of a restaurant and cooking his own steak and also never letting his beer bottle out of sight, although this involved a trip to the toilets.

Hardly having recovered from New Year's Eve then I was jumping on a plane to see IQ at England's Marquee. Marvin Orford saw me beforehand "hey Cess you *&!!** " he shouted "get the beers in or I'll have you thrown out". Getting a sweat on I ran to the bar only to discover the Marquee is certainly not the place to get drunk. The bastards charged me £2.50 for Marvin's pint. I said thank you but I do not want the glass as well.
Luckily IQ made up for it with a wonderful show, somebody told me that it had been a long time since they last played a good gig in England. I cannot complain because in Europe they are always excellent, perhaps the price of beer has something to do with it. One incident did spoil the evening for me, while Pete was mentioning Prog, Mike was making these rude gestures, like he did not want to be associated with the word. Well Mike, think on, where else could you get such adulation?

After IQ I stayed with a few of my friends. I was very pleased to be invited to Tracey Hitching's house and hearing about all her cohabitations, or should that be colaberations? I also stayed with Clive Nalon who let me hear some of the Arena tracks, by now you would've heard the whole package and will be as impressed as I was. I was shocked at the amount of female phone calls that Peter Gee receives and the oddness of his diet which consists of toast and honey.

My journey through the passages of life took me further north to stay in Cumbria with my old mate William Goate. We went to the interestingly named 'Cockermouth' to see the Ming Fighters strutting their stuff. Doinging a gig on sunday afternoon might not seem obvious time, but these Cumbrians run to a different schedule. All the girls were dressed in their finery, I bet there is less flesh on a nudist beach.

Then came the highlight of my England trip, a chance to catch up with my old mates Abel Ganz at Herringthorpe Leisure centre. New vocalist Chris Forsyth is a real find, giving the band a harder edge.

The next day I was flying back to Holland to catch the new dutch prog sensation over here called 'Circus Maximus', who were doing a gig in my hometown. They play original prog of the highest order. Already GEP, GFT, GDP, GTF, Musea, and Karlmarx Music are interested in them. So remember where you heard the name first

In Holland my birthday party was a fatastic evening and was attended by many of my prog friends including Thomas Verber (GEP), Wilebrord Smelsing (S.I) and Martin Huderson from the Classic Rock Society. Having so many prog friends gives me the chance to catch up on the ever changing world of prog. My good friend Moon told me why he had left Blandmarq and that Damian might rejoin. Malcolm 'nosey' Parker from GFT drunk some of Tracies home made bitter which caused him to be sick all down Shorn Warrel (The Organ). Threshold roadie Matt Goodluck unfortunatly was unable to attend my bash because he kept missing the flights.

Well Prog Pickers thats all I've got space for.
I'll be looking forward to travelling the world in search of prog. Planned trips include Prog Stock 95 which will include Moria Falls etc on July 7,8,9th in Norfolk. I will also make it to see Arena in Poland - Nov25. Also Porkupine Tree at the old Town 'n' Country Club.

PROST!

EAR TO THE ETHER

extra

O.k. Pendragon have just about completed their new album and having heard the whole lot I have to say it is their best yet. It's release is due on Feb 15th and 'The Masquerade Overture's' cover has been done by the same chap who's done their recent stuff and contains a ballroom scene featuring toff and some more sinister charatures. Apparently Nick Barratt's child will be called Max or Madison. Feb 15th. Word has it that Pendragon will headline 'Progfest 95' in America on Nov 12.

Look out for a great new German band called 'Chairtalk' there'll be more about them in our next issue.

Blandmarq are just finishing their new album and Jadis producer 'Rob Aubrey' has been involved with the drum production. The band may not be able to tour with the returned vocalist 'Damion Wilson' because of his asma.

Verglass records are to release Keith More's solo album which is very guitar oriantated and contains session work from Jethro Tull keyboardist Peter Vitess. Verglass have also bought the rights to Miick Pointer's sought after solo album 'Jack and the Progressive Beanstalk' which was previously only available on vynal. Both albums will be available in September.

Word has it that Marillion's Mark Kelly is living with a young Italian girl in Tooting.

Pallas have now finished their long awaited album and having heard a preview it is absouloutly astounding! The cd will be released in July followed by some gigs. Mike Stobbie's solo album is due to be out in November. Their new fanclub address is...
The Sentinal - PO Box 7001 - London - E14 9EB - England.

The Third Man

ALBUM REVIEW

PORCUPINE TREE
THE SKY MOVES SIDEWAYS

After listening to this band play a fantastic live session on Radio One, I needed this album and even managed to purchase a rare blue vinyl 12". Let's all be honest, the really classic albums get the vinyl treatment. So why, do you ask, did 'Ever' not recieve the same shit? Porcupine Tree's four musicians gel together exceptionally. Not only do they write good songs their musicianship is second to none. I've heard bassist Colin Edwin live and can assure you that you won't find a finer bassist in prog. Vocalist/Guitarist Steven Wilson has a trippy voice and his guitaring is classy because he doesn't show-off like many of the of the ego-minded players who are ridiculed in the press, he experiments and uses his guitar like nobody's business. Keyboardist Richard Barbieri (ex-Japan) reminds me of a young Richard Wright, a brilliant use of old classics and trippy synth. Drummer Chris Maitland amazed me on the Radio One session and enjoys the simple Floydian style then in contast gives Neal Peart a run for his money. For me they play 'common sense' prog that crosses the boundaries of appeal. Most of their fans probably don't even realise what prog is, such is their credibility and the prog-heads can't get enough. They are prog's golden boys and much of their long listed backlogue is very much sought after.

So, is there much awaited album worth buying? Without a doubt! To use the old cliche "it is the best thing the band have done" is a suitable phrase. This record is far more 70's prog than many of the band's previous stuff. Steven Wilson claims that his mission is to "drag prog kicking and creaming into the 90's", it seems by cramming as many of those 70's influences in as possible.

'Moonloop' was a fine prelude to this subtle shift in the direction and wetted our appetite, why didn't they put the single on this album? The first track 'The Sky Moves Sideways' lasts just under 19 minutes and is impossible to review such are the changes from the mellow bits to the louder riffs. The dopeheads will embace this album and enjoy lying on the voyage of prog and sailing with the stars. Side two starts with the brilliant 'Moon Touches your Shoulder' which resembles my favourite PT track 'Radioactive Toy' in the fact that you can drift into the music and only flirts with pop sensibility to the extent that it is short enough to enjoy radio play, just. This is an excellent song and fans will love the use of real old keyboards. 'The Sky Moves Sideways-Phase 2' closes the second side, more space trips, shuttling your senses from one galaxy to another. Brilliant.

The CD includes the 17 minute classic 'Moonloop' which many of you will have on if you bought the single. Everyone I've played this to thinks it is the best album in years and if you are going to buy any prog album then this is by far the best one to get. If you haven't got it then you won't know.

Porcupine Tree wank in the face of imposter prog merchants and come in the mouths of the music-mongers. The real point of interest will be how much acceptance this release gains. Porcupine Tree are one of the few bands that can bridge the gap holding other bands in small stagnat pools.

Rating 99.99% (I keep it next to my Dark Side of Th Moon). Available from shops or Porcupine Tree, Delerium Records, PO.Box 1288, Gerards Cross, Bucks, SL9 9YB, England.

William Goate

HOGARTH WRITES TOILET GUIDE BOOK

Sexy Marillion frontman writes ultimate loo guide of Europe

writes Julia Nickel

Steve Hogarth has just been putting the finishing touches to a 228 page guide to toilets he has visited over the past five years with Marillion.

After being overrun by several female German fans during the Brave tour, searching for the loos Steve began to take an keen fatherly interest in his favourite pastime and decided to write his book. The singer has always been fascinated with toilets and has contributed to many books on the subject. He recently rebuilt an old 1904 Thomas Gern Valve Flushing System which is now a valued treasure at the Oxford Lavatory and Basin Museum.

Shocking !!!

"If you want a bog in Belgium, a crap in Cologne, or a piss in Paris then my book will let you know where to go and where to avoid" said Steve frankly.

Mr Hogarth's book will come in very useful to many fans and musicians, tired of poor-pooing-places, places such as The Marquee where there was no toilet paper or Sarajevo where the seats were in poor condition.

"My Book will improve Standards"

"In many European towns you actually have to pay to relieve yourself. I will bring this to the attention of my readers and if enough people boycott this wicked practise then that can only be good news, a public toilet should always mean a public toilet" he demanded.

Mushroom Publishing are likely to begin printing in August, ready for the traditional routon of Autumn European prog-gigs. Hotels, Venues and even Restaurants have come under kind-hearted Hogarth's scrotumy and he has even judged the toilets on access for the disabled, room-scent and rim quality.

Paul Menel's "One for the Record".

The reviewer with a view. Paul tells it how it is.

Hi there guys and girls Paul here with yet another chance to prattle on about all the wonderful records I have been sent free from those nice people in record company land over the last couple of months. But, before I start I would very much like to talk to you all about my best subject, me! Many of you may not be aware but old Paul is back and my band is called THE GREAT OUTDOORS. What a good couple of nights we have had lately what with first playing at the Orange club and then the chance to headline at Londons Marqee club, I bet your thought you'd never see me back there again. Well we are a great band and therefore, I do very much recomend that if you get the chance come and see us. Try it you might like it!

Just before we go on any further I would also like to take this opertunity to tell you about the great night I have had at Mr Nolan's Thin Ice Studio. After much drinking (all of wich I paid for I might add) and sex etc. we all sat down to lisen to some rough mixes of the new MORIA FALLS album due for releae very soon. Marvin Ordford has played some fine flute. Said music sounded fantastic I might tell you some great guitar work from Mr Glen Sanderman. Hopefully "The Long Goodbye" will be reviewed in full next time but in the mean time I would tell you all to get ready to this one it sounds PROGTASTIC!
contact - The Prophecy - 8 Goodmins - Sedgeford - Norfolk - England

Anyway lets get back to the matter in hand what CDs are around for you all to enjoy. Its was a very mixed bag of musical delights that landed on my door step this time. Let me start off by saying that STEVE HILLMAN's "Matrix", available on the Cyclops lable, is so uttally bollocs that I need not say anything further. The other Cyclops offering this time has already been reviewed elsewhere in this mag but I will simply say that EPILOGUE and their album "Hide" is fantastic, particullaly the tracks "Matthew" and "Living a Lie".

Another strange one next, PSYCHOMUZAK with "The Exstasie". This one is on the same lable as PORCUPINE TREE and boy can you tell, strange. Still not to bad at all if your in the right mood. It turns out the Psychomuzak is actually my old friend Dean Carter, ex Dean Carter and also Dean Carter and the High Comition. This is not the Peter Hammill of his older work at all. But if you need to expand you mind then this is it. Dean can be contacted via his record company at Delerium Records PO BOX 1288, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9YB, England. As for a raiting then this must get 8 out of a possible 10 candles on a birthday cake.

A good old SI release next, BARROCK with "Oxian". This is one of the best prog cds I have lisended to for a long time.A solid band line up with not one but two female singers. The lyrics are not in English though (an oversight?) but thats not a big problem as the music is realy very good. tracks that stand out to me are "Fuga sul Fema di Oxian" or "Fugue on Oxian's theme" to you and me, nice piano, others include "Vampiro" and "La Rivolta del Popolo". I Like this one a lot and recomend it to each and every one of you. No cantack address but SI can be found at SI Music, PO Box 938, 3000 AX Rotterdam, The Netherlands. 9 and a half melted candle out of 10 for this. (would have been 10 but for those lyrics)

Staying with SI we have NOVEMBER with their "The First of November". Great solid band this one. Sound a little american AOR but a little of thats not bad (look at Mike and his Machanics ED.) thats what I say anyway. Some good Peter Gabriel sounding bits too, lisend to "Africa (Where Are You?)" to see what I mean. "Return To 81" is a very nice instramental which leads us into the closing song "Lion Eyes" Not bad at all. This album has a very big, what looks like, wedding cake on the front therefore it must get 10 out of 1`0 candles as the cake on the cover hasn't got any candles on it!

Yet another SI release is LIVES & TIMES with "The Great Sad Happy Ending" not realy prog at all this. Sounds to me like All About Eve and very good it sound too.

I think this is their second album, as I have another on of theirs but there could be more. Some very nice instraments on this as well as good vocals from Lorna Cumberland (in English too!). The openeing song "Begin and End" sets the stage very well for what is to follow. "One Step Forward" and "Sick of Ordinary" are tracks to look out for and I must mension the instramental "Wired to the Moon" simply because it's a good name for a song. Lives & Times can be reached at PO BOX 1428, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1ZY, England. Another 9 out of 10 for this one I think.

Next up are ELAN and "Firestorm". Are this ban from the states let me have a look, oh yes. Sound American. This is quit good for one of those American type prog bands. Simiplar in style to North Star.What can I say about this band er, nice picture of the band inside the CD insert and er, the covers got what looks like a firestorm on it (not that I have seen very many firestorms though). Oh yes the music well "Dementia" is quit good and "Snowbound" is better and "Chasing Princess Mood" is another good title for a sond with the word "moon" in it. Recored in Iowa in just three days takes a bit to get into but when your there it realy works, nice one. For ELAN recordings, merchandise and correspondencs contact PO BOX 71509, West Des Moines, IA, 50325, USA. 7 out of 10.

Just one tape to tell you about and its from those lovely boys who go by the name of SPHERE. Yes the new Sphere tape has arrived and is called "Sig:[n]at-u(r)e:s". I my mind this is great prog. I know that sphere are not everyones cup of tea but I like them. I know that they don't think that they sound anything like the Van Der Graaf Generator but sometimes they realy do. Other time I think that they do tend to be a little to muso and it does not work in my mind cos it detracts from the song. They don't tend to laps often though most of the time thiis is simply very, very good prog rock music. My advice to sphere would be to get your selves a deal with a major and make a great album and lie back and wait for the big time. 10 out of 10. For more information about this lot write to Sphere, c/o Neil Durant, 155, Park Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0BP, England.

Finally I am going to tell you about a group I have just found out about, CYAN. This lot actually turn out to be this one and his name if Robert Reed (yes tis he of Ezra fame). His first CD is called "For King And Country" and is a reworking of older songs from when Cyan where a band of more than one. Some very good songs on this CD "I Defy the Sun" and "Man Amoungst Men" are the two that I realy like when I lisen to this. Next came the CD "Pictures From The Other Side", both CDs available from SI by the way. This newer album contains some right cracking prog epics let me tell you including the forteen minites plus "NOSFERATU (Requiem For A Vampire)" very good almost operatic in places. If you have never heard of this band before then go out and get your hands on some of this now. If you can only aford one then I sugest that you start by getting "For King ..." first. Further information can be found at PO BOX 3, Ferndale, Mid Glam, South Wales, CF43 4AN, United Kingdom.

Well Times up again, so its goodbye from me untill next tiime, keep progging, and record companys keep sending the free CDs much aprechate - love Paul.

Christine Pointek's Top 20 Music Choice.

1. Arena - Songs from the Loin's Cage
2. Dream Theatre - Awake
3. Nirvana - MTV Unpugged
4. Threshold - Psychodelicatessen
5. Marilion - Brave
6. Dream Theatre - Images
7. The Crow - Soundtrack
8. Rush - Signals
9. Sesame Street - Bert 'n' Ernie and Friends
10. Jadis - Across the Wafer

Rothery
"I drink stylish wine"

Steve Rothery smuggles Australian Wine for Sex.

Marillion guitarist Steve Rothery loves expensive Australian wine so much that he even bought some bottles, Silhobbit can reveal.
An informer told Silhobbit that Steve has splashed out on a selection of red and white wine, whilst Mark Kelly drinks cheap 'girls' wine.

Fish in Salt'n' Sugar Mix-Up!

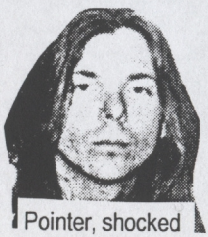
Fish, "easy mistake"

The ex-Marillion frontman was involved in a bizarre incident at a posh gay restaurant in Aberdeen recently.
"The granules looked identical so you can imagine my shock when I accidently put sugar on my haggis and salt in my coffee! The staff were great and immediately replaced my meal."
Fish has now pledged to be much more careful when it comes to salt and sugar.

Good Prince Harry stole my Riff!

Grace's fluter and saxophoner Harry has been accused of copying a 14year old girl's ideas and even recording a 'stolen' riff on a recent 'Prog for the Poor' charity record. Good Prince Harry denies the accusations although confesses to perhaps using some notes.

Pointer's Neighbour shoots Weasel



Pointer, shocked

The tiny village of Ivinghoe Aston in deepest Bedfordshire, was shocked when Mr Michael "PT" Pointer's neighbours shot dead a weasel accused of killing rare ducks owned by locals. Mick's girlfriend Mandy defended the actions by admitting that the weasel was not killing the rare ducks for food but for amusement.

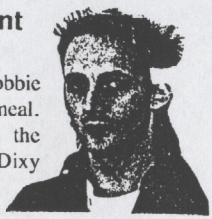
Ying Tolkien raise money for Earthquake Victims.

Japanese proggers 'Ying Tolkien' helped in the rebuilding efforts after devastating earthquake hit the town of [illegible] in January. Pete Nicholls presented the band with a cheque for 120,000 yen which will be used to buy vital hosepipes and grass cutting equipment.

Silhobbit Claim 'Best Fanzine' award.

A recent poll amongst Silhobbit staff included categories for best bands, musicians and fanzines. Silhobbit won best Fanzine during the February meeting. Silhobbit Editor Charlie O'Mara told Silhobbit that he "was delighted with the result but it was not unexpected". Other winners in the Silhobbit staff poll were Grace, Arena, Nick May, Fish and Porcupine Tree.

Stobbie walks to giant Floating Chinese Restaurant



Overweight Pallas keyboardist and proud Mellotron owner Mike Stobbie doesn't need to walk very far if he wants a hot and spicy Chinese meal. That's because he's got a huge floating Chinese restaurant boat in the Docklands by his luxury London apartment. However if Mike wants a Dixy Fried Chicken meal he has to travel over eight miles!

SILHOBBIT APOLOGY

In a recent issue of Silhobbit it was suggested that a certain member of Marillion was a drug addict and would "snort anything as long as it was white and powder". The cartoon also cruelly implied that Mark Kelly would spike Fish's christmas cake with co-caine.

We know that the person in question (and his family) were deeply offended and felt that his character had been brought into disrepute. Silhobbit, its staff, and its agents and its directors, sincerely apologise for causing distress to all concerned and have since sacked the persons responsible for the offending cartoon.

What do you think ?

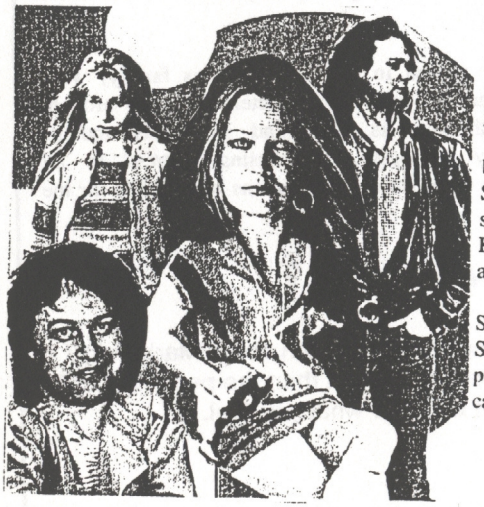
Do you think that Silhobbit was wrong to tell the truth about Mark Kelly? Perhaps you feel that the music is more important than the personalities? Write to Silhobbit and let us know what you feal.

NOLAN TO REFORM ABBA

In a shock statement early last week, Sir Clive announced that he has reformed Swedish supergroup ABBA. Speaking from his luxury apartment just off Amsterdam's' red-light district, he said that he had been approached by the Swedish Foreign Minister, Olaf Knegsson, to try and cash in on BJORN AGAINS success by bringing Agnitha, Bjorn, Benny and Anni-Frigid back together again. "He told me that Sweden was in the shit financially, and needed some dosh! As I had done the same for Holland and SI in particular, he thought I was the man enough for the job".

When I asked him how he had managed to get the couples back together, he confessed "It was very difficult. I first got in touch with Benny, because he played the keys like me, and I thought we could talk, man to man, about pianos and stuff. But he just refused point-blank to have anything to do with the project. So I said fuck you, I'm as good, if not better, as you, you Swedish tosser. So I'm doing the keyboards!" So will it they be called ACBA or ABCA, or even ABACAB? "Well, no. I next went to Bjorn, to see about getting some guitars on it, but he wanted 2,000,000 just to fart in the studio! 2M! Bugger that, I thought, so I called my good mate Karl Gloom and he said that he'll do it for a grand, back pocket, nudge nudge, don't tell Sideboard or he'll have me bollocks."

But you managed to get the girls then? "Well, no. Them two tarts are too into lesbian sex films and Take That to be bothered to get off their asses, cute though they are, to do any singing!" So who doing the singing, I asked with a resigned look in my voice? "Well, I wanted to get Miff from Maori Falls' girlfriend, Ustane and Silhobbit's own Fran Tuckett, but the Swedes vetoed the corresponding name! FCKU sounds alright to me. Anyway Tracy Hitchens was free at about the right time, and would do anything for a... well, I'd better not say as I'm already in the shit with her. For back-up, I've enlisted Sally French, you know, to go for the Blonde-Brunette combination."



So how's the recording going? "Well, ABBA's management won't lets us use any of their material, so I thought we'd do a covers album, you know, cover 'Suppers Ready', 'Grendel', 'Owner Of A Lonely Heart' and that sort of shit, but the powers that be wanted us to do some Strangers On A Train stuff and some Shadowlands stuff, and some old Pendragon stuff like 'Black Knight' and 'Stan and Ollie'! So who were we to argue?"

So there we have it, Clive Nolan's ABBA or STCK as they are to be known, are currently putting the final touches to their first album, to be called "The Lion, The Witch and Willebrord"

DORIAN C WRAG

PROG TOWNS - AYLESBURY

Spiritual home of Marillion therefore spiritual home of Prog.

Sight of the greatest prog gig ever as voted by readers of Silhobbit. This took place on 27th December 1986, featuring Marillion and Pendragon.

New prog sensations Arena can be found in the Black Bull every friday night getting pissed.

Geddy Lee always calls at the bakers in the High Street to buy donuts.

Gary Ghandler had a double puncture there in 1991, just as Pete Salmon drove past. The keyboard player asked Gary why he didn't have two spare tyres.

Fudge Smith would like to live there, but can't afford it until he receives royalties from 'Windows of Life'.

Fish was once a resident, but moved back to Scotland to live near a Haggis packing factory.

Grace's good prince 'Harry would never live there because it is "full of Suthern Yuppie Pooftas".

The first ever copy sold of 'Dark Side of th Moon' was in the town's Woolworth's.

Alan Reed from Pallas is banned from the town's take-a-way after demanding more 'dog meat' in his kebab.

Steve Rothery was once a member of the 'Aylesbury Porn Circle'.

NICK "BIRDMAN" BARRETT AND HIS GRAVY TALES OF WICKED FINANCE

Nick Barrett was topping up his cigarette rack in his kitchen when suddenly there was a knock at the door. "Excuse me, I'm collecting Aerial Ultra tokens for milk bottle shaped trifle wardens." enquired a lucious, young German lady. Using his fox-like cunningness and a pot of gravy, Nick and was able to confuse the kraut charity helper. "Unfortunately our low calorie atlas has been eaten by cement-worms, so that's £12.50 you owe me" lied Nick who was instantly rewarded.

Pleased as a pie, Nick congratulated himself on his fruitful windfall.

Dream Theatre - The Forum -

15th March '95

As a new Silhobbit reporter I was expecting to start my journalistic career reporting on dag-prog bands like Blandmarq or Jester's Jester. No, Charlie wanted me to bring you the news on big name group 'Dream Theatre'.

Well, the day finally pitured and I made my way to venue The Forum, (ex Town 'n' Country Club). I did have a slight problem getting in as I needed to pick up my reporters pass, but after the usual checks and red-tape I made my way to get a bird's-eye view and enjoyed the company of Threshold's Mick Nidson and new-drummer Jay Sorditzo. Other celebs present included Jadis' Gary Ghandler with Cheese Pasty, and various members of Mentaur, Moria Falls, Primitive Instinct, and Greg from Big Big Train.
The support band were 'Fates Warning' who endered their appearence on stage. I was dissapoineted because they are a great band who had poor sound and dag lights. Most of their set consisted of tracks from their last two albums 'Paralells' and 'Inside Out'. Much to the crowds amusement, they were joined for the last two songs by the Dream Theatre boys, who clowned around with silly string, making a right proggin mess.

When Dream Theatre arrived they opened with 'Pull Me Under' and quite impressive, I must say. The sound had now slightly improved. They continued with tracks from their two recent albums with some very dextrous solos from Mike Portnoy, John Petrucci, and new boy keyboard wiz Derek Sherinian. As I said, all was very impressive indeed, and with the addition of a nice 20min prog epic 'A Mind Beside Itself' and a cover of Deep Purple's 'Perfect Strangers'. However, after a while I started to feel as if I'd come to watch a display of perfectly crafted musicianship rather than an exciting show.

"ROTHERHAM ROCK SOCIETY IS SUPERB!!"

CLAIMS MARTIN HUTSON.

Rotherham's Classic Rock Society is "Superb" and it's not just Martin the 'Bingo Caller' who thinks so. Top IQ keyboarder contacted Silhobbit and backed up Martin's claim. Then astonishingly 'Big Big Trane's' hearthrob 'Greg Spawnton' faxed Silhobbit and praised the society as being "a highly polished organisation that is well run, up-to-date, and gives information on progressive rock bands from Galahad to Threshold and from Pink Floyd to Jadis". Then, even more astonishingly, Arena's Mick 'porky' Pointer left an E-mail on Silhobbit's new Internet computer network system, praising Rotherham's Classic Rock Society as "fanatics who love quality live music and beer."

For more information on how to join this organisation and receive their excellent regular magazine then contact Martin Hutson at ;

The Classic Rock Society - 47 Brecks Lane - Rotherham - S56 3JQ - U.K.

BIG BIG THANKS TO ...

Eric, Rambo, William, Sam, Heinz, Fran, Cess, Andy, Cynthia, Lara, Charlie, Parry, Huxley, Dorian, Rimsk (so long and thanks for the Fish), Paul, PL, Yurak, Matt, Emma, The Third Man, Rachel, Julia, Christine, Mick, Clive, Marvin, Martin and the people of Rotherham, Cliff and all in Walthamstow, Alyn at Winchester, Pete at Whitchurch and Dave at the Police Station.

Write to the following mags...

HAIRLESS HEART - 14, Haids Road, Maltby, Rotherham, S66 8BH
THE WEB USA - PO Box 7013, Streamwood, IL 60107, USA
NOBODYS LAND - Fermo Posta 10628, Trofarello, Torino, Italy
THE ARIANDE THREAD - PO Box 940, St Marys, GA 31558, USA
THE ORGAN - PO Box 790, London, E17 5RF
THE SECRET WORLD - 19 Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7ND
WONDROUS STORIES - 47 Brecks Lane, Brecks, Rotherham, S65 3JQ
FEEDBACK - 199 Chart Downs, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 4DO
COMPANY SCOTLAND - PO Box 3, Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland, EH41 3TA
MOB MAG - 11 Halfway Houses, Maidenhead Road, Cookham, Berks, SL6 6PP
THE POET - 70 John Nichols Street, Hinkley, Leics, LE10 0LD
GFT MAIL ORDER CD - Unit 2, 87A Maple Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4AW
PILGRIMS - 96a Cowlishaw Road, Hunter Bar, Sheffield, S11 8XH
BLINDSHITE - 3 Elm Park, Inverness Thistle, IV2 4QN
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ACRID DRAGON - 245 Rue Paul Gert, 69003 Lyon, France
OCRP - BP 2451, 38034 Grenoble cedex 2, France
PAPERLATE - Via Sisimondi 61, 20133 Milan, Italy
THE RELEASE - Heudorfstrasse 10, 7440 Nurtigen, Germany
LE MENDIANT - Route De La Petit Joux, 74520 Valleiry, France
YESSOUNDS - La Pasiega 10, Parbayon 39480, Cantabria, Spain
COMPANY HOLLAND - Postbus 23815, 2502 GV Den Haag, Holland

And everyone else.

SILHOBBIT MAGAZINE

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ENGLAND

PEDAL POWER PETE

A Game for up to Four Players!

Since Pete was banned for drinkin 'n' drivin last year he has to use his bike to get about! Each contestant chooses the 'Pete' that they want to be and then take it in turns to throw the dice to get from the start of the game to the finish and collect a rare Cd of Mick Pointer's 80's solo album and then return back home! If a contestant throws a 4, 5, or 6 then they have to remove an item of clothing or drink a glass of wine or bear. You can only move forward if you throw a 1,2, or 3. Good Luck!!!!!

START
Go forward 1 space
Go forward 3 spaces
P.C. Nolan checks your bald tyres, go back four spaces to replace 'em.
miss a go for a piss
GEP's Thomas gives you a bike tow. go forward 3 spaces.
A girl whaps out her 'grendals', miss a go whilst you have a tug.
Have a drink on Pete!
You Stop off at Mark Kelly's local bakery, miss a go whilst you eat some muffins.
MICK POINTER
JACK 'N' THE PROGRESSIVE BEANSTALK